

OBSERVATIONS

On the Internal Use of the

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SOLANUM

OR

NIGHTSHADE.

By THOMAS GATAKER,

Surgeon to Westminster Hospital.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

To which is added,

A SUPPLEMENT.



Printed for R. and J. DODSLEY, in Pall-Mall; and
sold by M. COOPER, in Pater-noster-Row.

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THE chief Part of the following Account relating to the internal Use of the Plant *Nightshade*, was lately read at a Meeting of the Royal Society; and, from the favourable Reception which it then met with, I flatter'd myself it might deserve some Notice in the next Publication of their Works. Finding however that an Opportunity of this kind will not occur in a considerable Time, and receiving daily Enquiries concerning the Manner of administering the Medicine, and the Operations which usually result from it, I am induced to give the Account in this Manner to the Public. Thus I shall hope at once to answer the Enquiries abovementioned, and at the same time more effectually promote my original Design of communicating these Particulars. This,

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I presume, might serve as a sufficient Reason for the present Publication : But I must beg leave to mention a Circumstance or two in regard to my general Conduct in this Affair ; as it will not, I hope, appear unreasonable that a Man should wish to avoid Censure, where he renounces all Pretensions to private Interest and Advantage.

As soon as I had discovered the common Operations of this Medicine, and found that, under certain Regulations, it might be given with perfect Safety, and, as I imagined, with great Benefit to Mankind, I immediately made them known to my Acquaintance ; but as the Extent of such a Communication could not sufficiently diffuse the Knowledge of these Particulars, I was desired and readily prevailed upon to give an Account of them to the Royal Society, as has been customary on like Occasions.

In this Account my Design was to show, that the Medicine might be used with great Safety, and probably with great Advantage—to point out the Method of administering it, and to describe the Operations which it usually had upon the human Body. By this means I imagined that I should furnish the judicious Practitioner

tioner with a very valuable Acquisition, and, by the Directions which I gave for its Use, should not only facilitate his Experiments, and enable him to use the Medicine with Propriety, but at the same time should prevent in some degree an injudicious, ineffectual, or perhaps dangerous Application of it by Persons of less Skill and Judgment.

As to all the Uses which a Medicine of such Powers might be applied to, I did not pretend to determine them. I rather thought that the united Experience of others would be the most ready and the most candid Method of pursuing such a Design; and I chose neither to confine the Virtues of the Medicine to my own Advantage, or Opportunities of Practice, nor to rely upon my own Knowledge or Judgment to ascertain them.

For these Reasons I was little solicitous about embellishing my Account with Histories of particular Cases. I mentioned indeed two of a cancerous Nature, for Reasons which are explained in the Account, and I have now added some others, as well to serve as a Specimen of the salutary Effects which may be expected from the Medicine, as to illustrate

and confirm what I have advanced of its common Methods of operating.

The Cases which are now added, are not selected from many others as particular Cases, but are designed as an unreserved Account of the State of those Patients who are now under my Inspection in the Hospital, and are either taking the Medicine, or, after having taken it with Success, are ready to be discharged from thence. The Event of some of these must at present be necessarily in doubt; * but if, as will appear by the first of them, the Medicine is capable of restoring Use to the Limbs of a Person who had been Bedrid several Months—if it is capable of removing the Anguish of constant and violent Pains, which nothing else had relieved, and of giving Rest, Strength and Appetite to one who had long been a Stranger to all these Enjoyments, it must be some Satisfaction, and, I presume, of some Use to know what were the Means that accomplish'd these desirable Ends. Nor can it, I think, be reasonably objected to the receiving this Information, that the Sore upon the Leg, which is one of the Grievances this poor Creature labour'd under, (see p. 15.) is not yet quite healed.

* In this Edition a farther Account is given of these Cases.

I must beg leave to add, that tho' I doubt not great Services will accrue from the internal Use of the *Nightshade*, yet, like other Medicines of much Efficacy, it will be productive of some Inconveniencies, and liable to many Disadvantages. It will probably be employed too promiscuously, either where there is no Indication to direct its Use, or where it is absolutely improper. It will sometimes disagree where the Use of it seems reasonable, and in other Instances it will prove ineffectual, not merely as it fails to cure, but even in its common Operations ; Circumstances to which all Medicines are liable from the Peculiarity of different Constitutions, or even from a temporary Difference in the same Constitution. It must be expected that the Medicine will be given by some, not only in Cases that are improper, but at unfit Times of the Disease, or in improper Doses, where it might otherwise be serviceable ; and that it will sometimes be mixed with Medicines which may interrupt its Operation, while in many Instances it may be rendered much less effectual for Want of being assisted by other Things. These however are such Disadvantages as every Medicine of much Efficacy is subject to, and therefore I would imply no more by these Observations, than that
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the Infusion of *Nightshade* is not to be given indiscriminately by every Person in every Disease, but requires Attention, Judgment, and Discretion in the Management of it.

I shall conclude this Introduction by hoping, that however I may err in my Judgment in this Affair, I shall be justified in my Intentions; and I must beg leave to acquaint those who may try the Medicine with Care and Impartiality, that I shall esteem it as a Favour to receive any useful Intelligence relating to it.

The following is the Account, with some Additions, which was read at the Royal Society, May 26, 1757.

ABout half a Year ago I read a Memoir, published in the *Bibliothèque des beaux Arts & des Sciences*, in which an Account is given of a Disorder declared to have been cancerous, and to have been cured by an Infusion of *Deadly Nightshade*. I determined to make some Experiments with this Plant; but as the Season of the Year would not then permit me to procure any that was fresh, I was obliged to make use of some *Nightshade* that had been gathered

gathered and was dry'd. Soon after I had begun to give it, with great Care and Caution, to three or four Patients, it was discover'd to be the Species of Nightshade called *Garden Nightshade*, and not that which is distinguished by the Name of *Deadly*, and which is the Sort recommended in the Memoir abovemention'd. Finding however very remarkable Effects from the former, and not being then able to procure any of the other Kind, I pursued my Experiments with the *Garden Nightshade*. The Cases in which I first try'd the Operation of this Plant, besides the two cancerous Cases hereafter to be related, were foul or painful Ulcers, obstinate Pains in particular Parts of the Body, scorbutic Eruptions, and other common Disorders: But as these were seldom attended with any very particular Malignity, when I say, that upon taking the Infusion the Ulcers healed, the Pains ceased, and other Complaints were removed; I ought likewise to acknowledge, that the same Purposes might possibly have been answer'd by other Medicines, tho' in several Instances this succeeded where the common Means had failed.

By these frequent Experiments I became better acquainted with the common Operations of
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the Medicine, and with the proper Manner of giving it. I found from repeated Trials, made with great Caution and Safety to the Patient, that so small a Quantity as one Grain-weight of the Leaf, infused in about an Ounce of boiling Water, and the Liquor afterwards strained from the Leaf and taken at Bed-time, would sometimes have a very considerable Effect; but that two or three Grains seldom failed either to vomit, sweat, or purge the Patient moderately, or to increase the Quantity of Urine. It sometimes occasions a Headach, Giddiness, and, probably in consequence of these, a Dimness; Symptoms which are not constantly to be expected, and when they happen they generally cease or abate after the first or second Dose: A Drowsiness or Disposition to sleep, particularly upon the first Use of the Nightshade, is another Circumstance which not unusually happens. In other respects, the most common Effects that I have observ'd to ensue upon taking this Medicine were a Heat or Warmth diffused in a few Hours over the Body, a plentiful Sweat succeeding this Heat, and a gentle Purging the next Day: If a Sweat did not break out, an extraordinary Discharge of Urine was the Consequence, and sometimes followed likewise by a Purging. One or more of the natural Evacuations were almost always increased.

These are the general Effects proceeding from the internal Use of the Nightshade, and are such as I am persuaded will correspond with the Experiments made by others ; as much at least as can be expected from any Medicine of Efficacy given to Persons of different Constitutions and under different Circumstances and States of Health.

As to all the Uses which this Medicine may be applied to, Time and much Experience only can ascertain them. I have already try'd it in some Disorders with Advantage, as I took notice before ; but as a circumstantial Account of particular Cases may be desired, I will relate the Effects of the Infusion in a few Instances.

I shall begin with two Cases of a cancerous Nature ; not with a View to establish an Opinion that this Medicine is a Specific for that Complaint, nor indeed would these Cases sufficiently authorise such an Opinion ; but as they were the first in which I try'd the Medicine, as they were likewise the only ones that, till lately, I took a regular Account of ; and as the particular Case which induced me to use the Medicine at all is said to have been a Cancer, and

radically cured by an Infusion of the *Deadly Nightshade*.

One of these was in a Woman about 30 Years of Age, a Patient in the *Westminster* Hospital. She had a Sore under her Right-eye, which began by a slight Accident upon the Part about a Year and half before she came under my Care. The Sore, which was as broad as a Half-crown, consisted of several indigested, foul Ulcerations, intermix'd with callous Eminences, or hard Knots rising in particular Parts of it, and the Whole was encircled by an unequal jagged Edge. Below the Sore the Cheek was discolour'd by a deep red Appearance, and was swelled. She had suffered considerable and frequent Pains in the Part many Months. The common Methods were try'd for her Relief ineffectually. Amongst other Things the Solution of Mercury, and other Mercurials were used so as to produce a slight Salivation. The Sore however appeared in full as bad a State as has been just represented, when I began to give her the Infusion of *Garden Nightshade*: In a Month after taking it the Pain intirely ceased, and in little more than another Month the Ulcerations were healed, and the Callosities subsided, leaving only a slight

Slight Soreness or Tenderness of the Skin, with two or three scurfy Inequalities in the Upper-part of it. No Application was used to the Sore except common softening Dressings to keep it from the Air.

As the Woman was quite free from Pain and saw very little Appearance on the Part more than was natural; and as she was very desirous to go into the Country to her Family, I could not prevail on her to stay, unnecessarily as she thought, any longer, in order to confirm the Cure, and prevent a Return of the Symptoms.

The Medicine, in this Instance, occasioned at first a Sickness and Giddiness, producing a plentiful Sweat in the Night, and a moderate Purging in the Morning, with some Increase of Urine. It continued to sweat her considerably as long as she took it, preserving also in general a lax State of her Bowels, and acting sometimes as a Diuretic. She never took more than an Infusion of two Grains at a time. I have not yet had any Account of her since she left the Hospital.

The other Patient who suffered under this Disease, was a Woman above 70 Years of Age, and in the same Hospital. She came there about five Months ago with a very large and bad-looking Sore on her Left-Breast, with callous Edges surrounding the Ulcer, and Hardnesses in other Parts. This Complaint began above a Year before with a small hard Knot, which increasing, broke into a Sore, and for some Months had gradually spread broader and corroded deeper. She began to take the Infusion of *Garden Nightshade*, after a Dose or two of purging Physic, and in less than three Months, using only common Applications to the Part, the Sore was reduced to a very inconsiderable Size, without any remaining Hardnesses at the Edges of it, and had the Appearance of healing in a Week or ten Days. The Hardnesses about the Breast were likewise diminished. In this Situation, she was attack'd with feverish Complaints, a slight Difficulty of breathing, and an inflammatory Swelling on her Left-hand. Upon these Accounts it was judg'd necessary to suspend the Use of the Infusion; and during this Interval the Surface of the Sore enlarg'd and grew foul again. Soon after, she lost her Appetite, and was affected with a general Weakness of Body, arising probably in some degree from a long

Confinement in the Hospital. All these Circumstances, join'd to her Age, afforded no Encouragement to try the Medicine again, nor Hopes of Success from any other Method †.

When this Woman began to take the Infusion it made her giddy, and sweat her very considerably. It continued to sweat her moderately, but never affected her either by Urine or Stool, and some time before she left off taking the Infusion, it produced no visible Alteration in any of the natural Evacuations, tho' the Dose was increased to five Grains. I was afterwards concerned that I had not increased the Dose still more, as her Strength was not at that time impaired; but the Progress of the Cure was so remarkably favourable in the Method she was then in, and the Dose being larger than I had ever given before, I omitted to do what might possibly have been of service to her.

As I neglected till lately to give a strict Attention to the Particulars of each Case wherein this Medicine has been used (except in the two preceding Instances) I cannot properly enter into a Detail of them: For this Reason,

† She is since dead.

as well as to avoid the Imputation of giving partial Accounts, I shall at present only mention such others as are now in the Hospital, and were this Day (June 21) examined there.

The first of the Patients is a Woman of 35 Years of Age. She was admitted into the Hospital about seven Months ago. She had then a very great Inflammation and Swelling of her Foot, Leg, and Knee, attended with a Fever, besides a very large Sore on the lower Part of of the Leg, which began two Years before, and had gradually been growing worse. The Sore had the most malignant Appearance, discharged a great deal of a sharp thin Humour, and was extremely painful. The Swelling and Inflammation were considerably abated after she had been in the Hospital some time, but the Sore continued in a very bad State, having extended itself from the lower Part of the Calf to the Heel, and from one Ankle backwards to the other. The Fever was sometimes very intense, and violent Purgings with other Symptoms intervened, which reduced her Strength and left very little Hopes of her Recovery. In this Situation she was about a Month ago, having been bed-ridden five Months, unable to feed or help herself, and the last six Weeks

Weeks having never enjoyed one Hour's Sleep at a time, on account of violent Pains which she felt in her Head and Limbs. She complained also of a great Weight and Heaviness in her Head, and at times was not sensible. The first Dose she took of the Infusion of *Garden* Nightshade affected her in a Manner, to use her own Words, as if she had drank too much strong Liquor. It then threw her into a plentiful Sweat, and purged her twice. The second and third Doses operated, as the first, except that they occasioned no Sensation of Giddiness. After the third Dose her Pains were much lessened, and she was able to walk with a very little Assistance. In eight Days she was perfectly free from Pain, could walk very well about the Ward, had an exceeding good Appetite, and her Strength was remarkably increased; as was soon evident; for on the twelfth Day after she had made use of this Medicine, she, without my leave, and imprudently in regard to her Leg, walked near two Miles. The Sore however healed incredibly fast, and as it is at present quite easy, and continues mending, it probably will not be long before it is well. It is now a Month and some Days since she began the Infusion, and except the remaining Sore she has not had a Complaint from the eighth Day after she began the Medi-

cine. She has continued the Use of the Infusion, though generally at the Distance of a Night or two from each Dose. It still sweats her moderately, and sometimes purges her gently. It has always increased the Quantity of her Water, but particularly since the Sweats have decreased. Another Circumstance has likewise lately occurred in her favour which had not happened the five preceding Months. She began with a Grain of the Leaf, and never increased the Dose to above a Grain and a half; the Infusion still preserving in a great Degree its Powers, notwithstanding the long Use of it, an Observation which may frequently be made of this Medicine, though hardly of any other †.

The next Patient is a Man 68 Years of Age. About five Months ago he received a violent Bruise on his Loins and Hips, by falling from a Height as he was carrying a great Weight, under which he was pressed, while his Body was bent double. In some time he

† *October 16.* In the last Edition of this Pamphlet, I gave an Account that the Ulcer had gradually lessened and was almost healed, tho' the large Extent and unfavourable Situation of the Sore had made it very difficult to procure Skin enough to cover it. I am now to observe, that when the Ulcer was just healed and a perfect Cure was expected, the Sore remained unclosed. It is probable likewise that it will always continue so; serving as an Issue which Nature has formed on the part, and as a necessary Drain for the Discharge of some constitutional Humour, which has now affected her Leg near three Years.

recovered from this Accident, except that it left a Weakness, and sometimes a Stiffness about those Parts. Being afterwards seized with violent Pains in his Back and Knees he was unable to stand upright, or to walk, but with difficulty; and not without the Assistance of a Stick: Nor could he attempt to bend his Knees without occasioning great Pain. He came out of the Country, and was admitted into the Hospital about seven Weeks ago, in the Condition just represented. After having been there a Fortnight without receiving any Advantage, he took the Infusion of *GARDEN Nightshade*. The first Dose, a Grain of the Leaf, had no Effect; but two Grains the next Night sweat him plentifully, made him a little giddy, and purged him three or four times in the Morning. The third Dose made him sick, which was the only time it did so, and operated in other Respects as the preceding. He had little or no Complaint after the fifth Dose, but nevertheless he repeated the same twice or thrice at the Distance of two or three Days between each. These acted like the others, and they all occasioned some increase of Water. He never took more than two Grains for a Dose. He has left off the Infusion above a Fortnight and continues

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well, except sometimes the Weakness or slight Stiffness of his Back; the Consequences, as was before observed, of his Bruise.

The third Patient is a middle-aged Man, who was received into the Hospital about a Month ago, with a Swelling and several painful Sores on one of his Legs. He has taken the Infusion of *Deadly Nightshade* three Weeks. It worked chiefly by Urine, though sometimes it sweat him slightly. As he was generally costive, he took occasionally some purging Medicine. The Dose in this Man was increased from one Grain to twelve, without producing any Sickness, Giddiness, or other Effect than what has been just related, except that the last Dose, twelve Grains, sweat him plentifully several Hours. His Leg is well. This Case may serve as much to shew the Difference of the Dose necessary in different Constitutions as for any other Purpose, since it is probable, that Rest, proper Applications, and other internal Medicines, might have succeeded here equally well with the Infusion.

The fourth Patient is a Girl, 16 Years of Age; she has been in the Hospital a Month. When she was admitted, she had a large scrophulous Sore on one of her Thighs, which had been troublesome to her several Months, and

another on the Foot, with an Enlargement of the Bones of the Foot. She has taken the Infusion of *Deadly Nightshade* three Weeks. It operated by Urine considerably, and generally purged once or twice in the Morning; and two or three Nights it sweated her. The Dose was increased to four Grains. The Sore on her Thigh is well; that on the Foot much the same as it was, and must necessarily continue so some time, as there is a Piece of Bone which must come away.

The fifth Case is that of a young Woman who came into the Hospital four Months ago, with a large Sore on her Leg, which had a Tendency to mortify. She had another exceeding painful Sore under her Arm, and it was with great Difficulty that either of them could be made to digest. After a considerable time the Sores were brought into a better State.—At last that under the Arm healed, and the other on the Leg was reduced into a narrow Compass; but still there remained an obstinate small Ulcer, which no Application or Medicine seemed to have any Effect on. During the last two Months, her Body has been covered with a scorbutic Eruption. The breaking out of this was probably the Reason of the Sores having grown better; but as it

was constantly very troublesome to her, and appeared as bad as the most inveterate Itch, 'twas necessary she should, if possible, be relieved; Most part of the time she has been troubled with a Pain in her Head and Stomach, a Lowness of Spirits, and Loss of Appetite. Finding no Advantage from any thing she took, though some of the Medicines produced a gentle Perspiration, she began the Infusion of *Deadly Nightshade*. The first Dose, one Grain, had no effect; the second, two Grains, purged her twice; the third, three Grains, made her sick and giddy, and threw her into a profuse Sweat. She has now taken six Doses. The Eruptions almost intirely disappear, except some few small ones about the Arms, and several upon the Hands, where they form themselves into Boils, with a great deal of well-digested Matter in them like large Pustules of the Small-pox. The Pain in her Stomach is at present removed. She continues the Medicine †.

The sixth, and the last Patient which I shall mention at present, is a Man who was brought

† She was directed likewise to have a Blister to her Back, and to be vomited on account of the Pain in her Head and some Return of the Pain in her Stomach. She was soon afterwards well and discharged from the Hospital. This young Woman continued till lately free from the Complaints which she had in the Hospital, except that she has been sometimes subject to slight Heats in her Skin. The Sore is now broke out again upon her Leg, and will probably be attended with some Difficulty in healing, or be liable to a Return after it is healed, unless the Obstructions peculiar to her Sex, and with which she has been sometime affected, can be removed.

into the Hospital about a Month ago, with several large Wounds made on his Leg by the Bite of a Leopard. The Leg was very much inflamed and swelled, and a common symptomatic Fever attended ; but in ten or twelve Days these Symptoms went off, and the Wounds were in a good State. In a few Days after he was seized with a violent Pain in the Shoulder, Arm, Hand, Thigh, Leg, and Foot, of the Side opposite to the wounded Side ; so that he was quite unable to move those Parts: Nor was he much more capable of Motion in the other Side, having a considerable Pain in that Shoulder, Arm and Hand. Having continued in this State four Days with great Heat and other feverish Symptoms, he was bled (the Blood very fizy) and took an Infusion of one Grain of the Leaf of *Deadly Nightshade* at Night, and the same the next Morning. It threw him into a very plentiful Sweat, which continued more than two Days, without taking any thing more than common diluting Liquors. He was considerably easier, but his Heat being still too much, and complaining of a Tightness over his Breast, he was bled again (the Blood still very fizy) and not having had a Stool he took an opening Medicine. The fifth Day he had no Complaint but in his Hands, which were both very painful, and the

Sweats having now ceased more than 24 Hours, he took the same Quantity of the Infusion once again Night and Morning, which produced the same Degree of Perspiration as before for two Days. He has taken only one Dose since. This is the 10th Day, and he is now free from any Complaint, except in one Wrist. The Medicine never made him at all sick or giddy, nor occasioned much Alteration in the Quantity of his Water §.

Upon the Whole, whether there is any Specific Property in this Plant, either for the Cure or the Alleviation of cancerous Disorders, or whether its Efficacy may be more particularly useful in the Removal of other Diseases, I will not yet presume to determine with Confidence. It would as ill become a Man of Candour to say more of a Medicine than it deserved, as it would to conceal or confine its Virtues when they were once ascertained: But from the Effects which I have already seen of this Plant; from considering the Powers which this simple Production of Nature has on the common Discharges of the Body; and from reflecting how trifling a Quantity of it, infused only, and the Substance not taken, is capable of producing these great Effects; — From

§ This Man had a slight Return of his Pains, which were remov'd in a few Days by a Repetition of the same Method, and he soon recover'd his Strength and was perfectly well.

all these Considerations, I am led to imagine, that an extensive Use may be made of this Medicine, as a powerful Promoter of most of the natural Discharges of the Body, exclusive of any specific Properties, which by future Observations may be found with Certainty to reside in it.

We are now in a Way to determine this: Several Gentlemen, induced by the Trials which I have made, being desirous to prove the Effects of the Infusion by their own Experience. In the mean time, as this celebrated Society have thought the single Case related in the *Bibliothèque des beaux Arts & des Sciences* to be worthy their Attention, I have presumed to offer the Result of a more extensive Use of this Medicine; and thus far I can venture to assert at present, that it may be given with great Safety in the Manner which I have recommended for its Use.

I shall only beg leave to add, that the Circumstances which I have mention'd are designed to assist the Endeavours of others; and if any one valuable Purpose shall be answer'd by our Enquiries, I hope I shall not want an Apology for giving this early Intelligence, without waiting for more Facts to illustrate what has been said.

do I before the London is given: But as

I observed in the Beginning of the preceding Account, that an Infusion of one Grain-weight of the Leaf would sometimes have a very considerable Effect, and that two or three Grains seldom failed to increase some of the natural Evacuations. As this Medicine, however, like all others of great Efficacy, acts very differently in different Constitutions, it may not be amiss perhaps in some Cases to begin with half a Grain, and repeat the Dose sooner, or increase the Quantity of it occasionally, according as it operates and agrees, and according to the Strength of the Patient, and the Nature or State of the Disease. In general it should be taken at Bed-time, and repeated only every second or third Night.

If the Patient is hot and thirsty in the Night, after taking the Infusion, some small diluting Liquor should be provided to drink warm, in order to encourage a free Discharge by Perspiration or Urine, and to relieve the Stomach when there is a Disposition to vomit.

If Costiveness prevails, tho' the Medicine frequently has the opposite Effect, this Circumstance must be particularly attended to.

In some full or sanguine Constitutions, a Purge and the Loss of some Blood may be thought necessary before the Infusion is given: But as

it is imagined, that no one will administer a Medicine of this Efficacy without some Knowledge of Physic, most Directions of this kind will, it is presumed, be best supply'd occasionally.

As to the Sort of Nightshade which should be made use of, I cannot discover any essential Difference in the Effects between the *Garden* and the *Deadly* Nightshade; nor do I believe it of much Importance whether the Leaf be fresh or dry. I have not yet tried the other Species (the Bitter Sweet) sufficiently to speak of it with Certainty, but am inclined to think from the use I have hitherto made of it, that it partakes very much of the Virtues of the other two. This Similarity of Effects in Plants of very different Appearances, is a Circumstance as remarkable as the Effects themselves are extraordinary.

To these Observations I shall subjoin, as a Subject of Curiosity, an Account of the various Purposes for which the Nightshade has been formerly employed.

There are three different Plants, Natives of *England*, which are known by the Name of Nightshade.

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I. (1) Com-

1. (1) Common, or Garden Nightshade.

This Plant, tho' of late Years it has fallen into Neglect, was formerly used in Medicine externally for several Diseases; (*a*) in Poul-tices, both alone and compounded, for Disorders of the Eyes, Head-achs, Heart-burns, and King's Evil. Its expressed Juice was also used for the same Purposes, and for acrimoni-ous Defluxions and Pains in the Ear. In the same Form it has been looked on as an ex-cellent Remedy for Inflammations of the vene-real Kind, (*b*) and for Ulcers. (*c*) It has been applied to the Wrists, and given in Gargles, and, as it is said, with Success in Fevers. A Lini-ment made of the same, compounded with Houseleek and White of Eggs, applied warm, has been thought of wonderful Efficacy in cold Tumors of the Breast. The whole (*d*) Plant, and a Water distilled from it, is recommended in Inflammations, Scirrhuses, &c.

(1) Solanum Officinarum, C. B.

———— Vulgare, Park.

———— Hortense, Ger.

———— Hortense seu vulgare, J. Bauh.

———— Nigrum, Linn.

(*a*) Dioscor. Lib. 4. c. 71.

(*b*) Raj. Hist. Plant. 673. Trag. Hist. Plant. 305.

(*c*) Cæsalpin. de Plant. 213.

(*d*) Linn. Mat. Med. Sect. 94.

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Some Authors (e) disapprove the internal Use of this Plant, and *Wepfer* (f) gives an Account of three Children poisoned by it; yet *Dioscorides* mentions it as esculent, which seems impossible, if he meant the same Plant that is now called the Garden Nightshade, as must be evident by the preceding History. Other botanical Writers mention it also as used in Food; but as they in general are mere Transcribers from him, no Stress could be laid on their Testimony, if one of them, (g) who lived in the sixteenth Century, had not asserted the same Thing, as it were, of his own Knowledge. His Words are, *A multis Nationibus estur in olere*, and he cannot well be supposed to mistake the Plant. The Curious perhaps may think it worth while to enquire farther into this Affair; but however this Mistake, if it be a Mistake, may have arisen, and however unfit this Plant may be for Food, yet it appears from an Author (h) of great Accuracy and Knowledge in Plants, that it was commonly made use of by Physicians internally in many Cases, as Inflammations of the Stomach and Bowels, for Heat of Urine, and for the Stone.

(e) Raj. loc. cit. Fuchf. Hist. Plant. 729.

(f) De Cicut. Aquat. 229.

(g) Ruellius de nat. Stirp. lib. 3. c. 109.

(h) Cæsalpin. de Plant. 213.

The Effect of it was Sweating; a Water of it, but he does not say how obtained, being given with Wormwood to the Quantity of three Ounces.

2. (2) Bitter Sweet, or woody Nightshade.

It does not appear that this Plant is described either by *Theophrastus* or *Dioscorides*. In latter times it is frequently mentioned, and has been used externally by way of Poultice to assuage Pains in the Breast, and to disperse Tumors; (i) internally for the Dropsy, for the Jaundice, for Contusions and Wounds, to dissolve coagulated Blood, and to open Obstructions in the Liver and Spleen. It is said to be Diuretic and Purgative, particularly of the Bile. *Linnaeus*, who, as he declares, has been very cautious in attributing Virtues to Medicines, of which he had not sufficient Proof, either from his own Experience, or that of credible Witnesses, recommends (k) two Ounces of the Stalks of it (but does not say whether by Decoction or Infusion) in Contusions, Rheumatisms, Jaundice, Pleurisy and Asthma,

(2) *Solanum scandens* seu *dulcamara*, C. B. Lin.

—— *Lignosum* seu *dulcamara*, Park.

—— *Amara dulcis*, Ger.

—— *Gycypicrós* seu *amara dulcis*. Bauh.

(i) Raj. Hist. Plant. 671.

(k) Mat. Med. § 95.

as a most powerful Remedy, though seldom used.

A late * Writer observes, that the Efficacy of this Plant in purifying the Blood was unknown till *Linnaeus* made Use of the Stalks; Before that time the Leaves only were prescribed, and even now he says, few are acquainted with its Virtues, as it is generally given in too small a Dose.

3. (3) Deadly Nightshade, or Dwale. Ger.

Theophrastus describes certain Plants under the Name of *Strychnos*, one of which is supposed by some Authors to be this Nightshade; but the Description being very imperfect, and some of the Notes not agreeing with it, it seems impossible to decide any thing about it with Certainty. The same perhaps may be said in relation to *Dioscorides*, and this Difficulty has forced *Cæsalpinus* (1) to suppose that he has joined the Description of two Plants together. However, this is a Point of very little Consequence; since neither of those ancient Authors attribute any medicinal Virtues to the Plant in question.

* J. G. Beyerstein *Obstac. Medicin. Amænit. Academ. vol. 3. pag. 70.*

(3) *Solanum melanocephalus*, C. B.
Belladonna, Claf.
Atropa, Lin.

(1) *De Plantis*, 213.

Later Writers (*m*) make frequent mention of it, and give many Instances of its poisonous Effects ; particularly upon Children. Every part of this Plant may be used externally, but the fresh Leaves of it, bruised and applied to the Breast, have been found very efficacious in cancerous Humours, if we may believe the Testimony of a very ingenious and candid Writer (*n*) who first made the Discovery. An Infusion of its Berries given, internally operates by Sweat and has been used with great Success in Inflammations (*o*) and Dysenteries (*p*). Vinegar is said to be an Antidote against its poisonous quality.

These Extracts, for which I am oblig'd to a very worthy and ingenious Friend (Mr. *Stillingfleet*) who took the trouble of collecting them, may serve to shew the Character which the Nightshade had acquired formerly.

It will appear by them that many and great Virtues have been attributed to this Plant, though the Uses of it, and its common Operations upon the Body, have been described

(*m*) Raj. Hist. Plant. 679. Bod. a Stapel; comm. in Theophr. 1078. 2.

(*n*) Willughby apud Raj. Hist. Plant. 680.

(*o*) *Tragus Stirp.* Hist. 305.

(*p*) Raj. Hist. Plant. Linn. Mat. Med. §. 95.

with too little Exactness or Certainty to afford much Instruction for Practice.

I find likewise that the Nightshade has been recommended by other Writers: (9) *Juncker* particularly speaks of two Cases of Cancers cured by it, and recommends the future Use of it; but upon the Whole we meet with very little Satisfaction upon the Subject. One Notion seems to have prevailed in general, that there was some Specific, or very powerful Property in Nightshade, for the Cure or Relief of cancerous Disorders. But however strongly this Notion has prevailed, it has by no means been properly determined. A modern Writer, Dr. *Lambergen*, a professor of Physic Abroad, gave the History of a Case some time ago serving to confirm this Opinion. In the Year 1754, he printed, as I am informed, at *Groningen*, an inaugural Oration, to which was added an Account of a Cancer in a Woman's Breast that had been radically cured by the Infusion of the Deadly Nightshade.

In the *Bibliothèque des beaux Arts & des Sciences* for the Months of *January, February and March, 1755*, there is an Abstract of this History. It was the latter of these which I

(9) *Conspect. Chirurg. pag. 314.*

read,

read, and which determined me to try the Effects of this Plant. I shall not enter here into a Detail of the Particulars related by Dr. *Lambergen*. 'Tis sufficient to observe, that it was the united Opinion of the Doctor and three other Physicians, that the Case related was a confirmed Cancer. We are afterwards informed that the Disorder was cured by an Infusion of the *Deadly* Nightshade, or Belladonna, and that the Patient had remained perfectly free from the Complaint eight Years, when this Account was originally printed. It is however a Circumstance very extraordinary, that so many Years had elapsed without any other Cure appearing to have been effected by the same Person, and by the same Medicine. It is hardly to be supposed that Dr. *Lambergen* had not made some other Trials in an Affair so important to his own Reputation, as well as to the Happiness of thousands. Yet there is great Reason to imagine he had not. If he had repeated his Experiments and they had failed, he never could have offered this Case to the Public afterwards; if he had succeeded again, he certainly would have confirmed his first Account by the Addition of other Instances. It seems farther probable that he never did repeat the Experiment, from his Silence about the remarkable Effects which the Infusion is

now

now generally found to have upon the natural
Evacuations of the Body.

I have lately endeavoured to procure other
Intelligence relating to this Affair, but have
not yet met with any sufficiently satisfactory
to be related. We shall soon however sup-
ply this Want by the more certain Testimony
of our own Experience. The Medicine is now
introduced into our Hospitals, where its
real Uses will be publickly known; where
Prejudice or want of Abilities will be
less likely to mislead than the Reliance
upon any one Man's Judgment; and where
Facts are not so liable to be misrepresented as
in a more confined and private Practice, for the
Enhancement of Gain or the Support of false
Pretensions:

I am far from being convinced that the In-
fusion of Nightshade will cure a confirmed
Cancer, though I think it is highly probable
that great Advantages will be found from it in
some Cases approaching to Cancers. What-
ever be the Power of the Medicine in this Re-
spect, I have the Satisfaction to think that
Success attends the Use of it in some Dis-
orders, and that in Cases where it fails to

cure, it will at least often afford great Ease and Relief: nor has it been subject, as far as my Practice has extended, to produce any lasting ill Consequence.

POSTSCRIPT, *August 10.*

THE Author of the preceding Observations takes the Opportunity of this Edition to remark, that as Medicines of seemingly the same Properties are sometimes found to act very differently in different Constitutions, the same Circumstance may happen in the Use of the *Garden* and the *Deadly Nightshade*: One of them may in particular Instances agree better and prove more effectual than the other. He desires likewise to observe, that tho' he cannot positively say there is any essential Difference in the usual Effects of these two Plants, he is inclined to think that the *Garden Nightshade* may be rather milder in its Operation than the other; at least he would in general recommend the Trial of that first. Upon the whole, if neither, after a few Trials of them, occasion any Encrease of the natural Evacuations, he would advise a Discontinuance of them, as a Perseverance with enlarged Doses under such Circumstances, might in some Constitutions probably irritate too much; and as he imagines that little Good can be expected from this Medicine, where it does not visibly promote some of the natural Discharges of the Body.



A
SUPPLEMENT
TO
OBSERVATIONS

On the Internal Use of the
NIGHTSHADE.

ALMOST four Months having passed since the first Publication of the preceding Account of the Nightshade, it is reasonable to suppose that a more enlarged Experience of its Effects may have enabled me to judge with greater Certainty of its Uses. It might appear at least very inattentive or disingenuous to pass over intirely the present Opportunity, without taking Notice of such Circumstances as have occurred, that relate essen-

tially to the Administration of this Medicine. I shall endeavour therefore now to give such a farther Account, as will I hope conduce to an advantageous Use of it where there is a Probability of Success, and prevent its being employed to any injurious Degree, where the Disorder is not likely to be relieved by it, or where the Symptoms may be aggravated by the Attempt.

In the first Account which I gave of the Nightshade, I endeavoured chiefly to establish the Character of this Medicine as a powerful Promoter of most of the natural Discharges of the Body, leaving it to farther Trials to determine, what at that time seemed doubtful, whether it had any specific Properties for the Cure of any particular Disease. I am now convinced that it has no specific Properties, that is to say, it has no such peculiar and unaccountable Power residing in it as is found to be in the Bark for the Cure of an Ague, or in Mercury for the Cure of the Venereal Disease; but that, like many other Medicines, it is to be considered chiefly as it operates in promoting
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the common Discharges of the Body: I say chiefly, because in several Instances, and particularly upon the first Use of the Medicine, it is found to have in some Degree the Power of procuring Sleep and easing Pain. Allowing then that the Nightshade is not endued with any distinguishable specific Property, the future Use of it may of course be directed with less Difficulty and with more Propriety; since there remain but two principal Objects to be considered, namely, what its usual Operations upon the Discharges of the Body are, and what Complaints may indicate the Use of a Medicine acting in such a Manner. In the preceding Account I have mentioned the Effects which it usually has upon the Secretions—that a Heat or Warmth being diffused over the Body is succeeded by a plentiful Sweat, and sometimes by a gentle Purg- ing the next Day—that, if a Sweat does not break out, an extraordinary Discharge of Urine is the Consequence, which is sometimes followed likewise by a Pur- ging—and that one or more of the natural Evacuations are almost always increased by it.

it. This Account, I make no doubt, corresponds with the Experiments of others as nearly as the Effects of any Medicine can be expected to do in different Constitutions, and under different Circumstances and States of Health.

In respect to its Uses, as the Nightshade is now found to have no specific Properties, it is not to be considered as relative only to one Disease, but to be regarded as it may affect the common Discharges of the Body: Of course it is to be given discretionally like other Medicines which operate by Stool, Perspiration, or Urine, in such a Manner and on such Occasions as the Prescriber shall judge proper. But, as I have observed in my Account, that in some Instances this Medicine had been found serviceable in particular Disorders, and as I have given some Cases relating to those Disorders, I shall now add such other Remarks as more Experience and Reflection have suggested to me, and which may serve more fully to explain what I have there intimated.

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The Disorders which I have there mentioned were foul and painful Ulcers, Pains in particular Parts of the Body, and scorbutic Eruptions; to which are added two Cases of a cancerous Nature.

In regard to the first of these, I would be understood to mean such kind of Ulcers as have been of some continuance, and which are brought into a healing State with difficulty. If we enquire properly into the History of these Cases, we shall find, that the Ulcer is but one Symptom of a general Disorder—that the Evil, the Scurvy, the Suppression of some natural Discharge, a sudden Check to, or the Disappearance of an Eruption upon the Skin—in short some constitutional Humour in the Blood, or some more recent and accidental Disorder affecting the Habit in general, has either preceded or attends the Complaint we are speaking of. Agreeable to this Observation we find from Experience, that different Methods of Cure are necessary to be undertaken in different Constitutions: Thus, tho' we find that Bleeding,

moderate

moderate Purgings, Regularity of Diet, Rest, and a due Attention to the Situation of the Part disordered, will frequently have a very good Effect; yet to heal the Ulcer perfectly, and to keep it healed afterwards, recourse must be often had to means more appropriated to the peculiar Disposition of the Constitution, or to the prevailing Humour in the Blood at that time. But exclusive of the Medicines which are directed by the Physician on these Occasions, most of which are reckoned of the alterative Kind, we often observe, that some particular Evacuation will not only be more useful than others, but is more agreeable to the Constitutions of particular Persons. Thus, where Purgings, Vomiting, or Bleeding cannot either be sufficiently repeated, or else prove ineffectual, the Discharge by the Skin is found beneficial; and if we could discover a Medicine which promoted a plentiful Perspiration, and if the Operation of it could be regulated and repeated with as much Certainty, and with as little Inconvenience as a Vomit or a Purge, we should supply I imagine the greatest Deficiency in the *Materia Medica*.

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I am by no means of an Opinion that the Nightshade will perfectly answer this Description, but in some Instances it approaches nearer to it than any other Medicine that I have ever seen given; and it has been chiefly in such Cases as I have just represented, namely, where the other Evacuations have not answered, or could not be continued, and particularly where the Patient has been at the same time troubled with Pain in the Limbs, that the Nightshade has had a good Effect. In these Cases, if the Medicine operates plentifully by Sweat, and without much Inconvenience, as it will often do, the Dose may be repeated every second, third, or fourth Night, and the Operation of the Medicine will probably be nearly the same during several Weeks use of it. At the same time if it keeps the Body lax, or if that Effect is produced by the help of other things, the Advantages may be more considerable. The great Quantity of Urine which is sometimes discharged even whilst the Medicine operates profusely by Sweat, is likewise, I imagine, another useful Circumstance to-

wards clearing the Blood of some offensive Humours: Nor do I omit as useless the other Qualities of this Medicine which it frequently has of procuring a relieving Pain, by which the Digestion of some Sores is greatly mended, as well as the Patient relieved. But notwithstanding these repeated and uncommon Evacuations may in some Cases quite clear the Blood from the less obstinate, and from recent Humours that affect it, we find that where there is a constitutional Disease, or where any habitual Humour has long prevailed, the Ulcer, though it may heal very readily with this Medicine, will, as very often happens after other methods of Treatment for the like Cases, be sometimes apt to break out again, or the Disease to appear in some other Form; since as there is no specific Virtue in the Medicine, the original Humour is not necessarily eradicated, because the Symptoms disappear. For this Reason, though the Nightshade had a very remarkable good Effect in the Woman's Case, related in the first Account (Page 14.) by giving almost immediate Ease
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to a very painful Sore which spread over great part of the Leg; though in a few Days this Medicine removed the Pain in her Head and Limbs, which was so excessive as almost totally to deprive her of Rest for six Weeks together; though it restored the Woman to the Use of her Limbs after she had been bedrid many Months, and notwithstanding she has been quite free from Pain, and has enjoyed her Strength and Spirits ever since; yet it now appears, that, when the Ulcer was just healed and a perfect Cure expected, the Sore remains unclosed. It is probable likewise that it will always continue in this State, serving as an Issue which Nature has formed on the Part, and as a necessary Drain for the Discharge of some constitutional Humour which has now affected her Leg near three Years.

Thus likewise the young Woman mentioned as the fifth Case (Page 19.) though she continued till lately free from the Complaints which she had in the Hospital, except that she has been sometimes subject to slight Heats in her Skin, has now a Sore

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broke out upon her Leg; and this probably will be attended with Difficulty in healing, or be liable to a Return after it is healed, unless the Obstructions peculiar to her Sex, and with which she has been some time affected, can be removed.

From the frequent Relapses of this Sort, and from the Account which I shall hereafter give of cancerous Complaints, I should imagine that the Woman's Disorder in the Cheek, (mentioned Page 10.) is much more likely to become bad again, than to remain in the State it was in when she left the Hospital.

It may seem unnecessary after this, and after declaring that there is no specific Virtue in the Nightshade, to observe, that no lasting and considerable Advantage can accrue from the Use of it for so obstinate and so peculiar a Humour as the Evil.

Pains in particular Parts of the Body, which have been of long Continuance, and are apt to return after they have been removed,

moved, do not very often admit of any other than a temporary Relief from any Medicine, being usually supposed owing to some general Disorder in the Blood, as the Gout, a confirmed Rheumatism, or an inveterate Scurvy; but in Cases less complicated, where the Cause of the Disease is more recent, and where repeated Sweats have either been judged preferable to other Evacuations, or proper to assist them, the Nightshade has proved very serviceable.

Scorbutic Eruptions seem to have some resemblance with the preceding Disorders, especially as they may arise from a constitutional Cause, or may proceed likewise from a Cause more recent and accidental. In some of these the Nightshade, which operated profusely by Perspiration and Urine, lessened the Eruptions very much, and removed the Pain in the Limbs which accompanied the other Complaint; and this it did after the warm Bath and other means had failed: Sometimes the Eruptions have quite disappeared, but they either appeared again afterwards, or some Complaint of the Stomach,

Stomach, Head, &c. ensued, and the same Consequence happened from the other Methods that were tried in these Cases. Where the Disease has been of less standing, and the Medicine operated readily by Sweat, the Benefit has been more lasting.

I shall next consider the Effects which the Nightshade has had in cancerous Disorders, an Article which I might perhaps with more propriety have begun with, as it has been the principal Reason why I have hastened the Publication of this second Part of my Account.

It is plain from the Account which I have related of the Uses to which the Nightshade has been formerly applied, that an Opinion had long prevailed of this Plant's being endued with some particular Power for the Cure of Cancers. The positive Assertions of many eminent Writers leave no room to doubt of the Prevalency of such a Belief, yet, if the Opinion had been well founded, one would have supposed, that the Medicine must have been brought into general

general Practice, and the Reputation of it have been established for the Cure of a Disease so destructive to the Happiness and Lives of many. But if we consider the Fate of some other Medicines which are now in constant Use, and which are by much the most valuable of any in our Possession—if we consider that Mercury was in a great measure disused on Account of the ill Effects of it after it was first known in the Cure of the Venereal Disease—that Antimony which is now given by every body, and is supposed to be the Basis of almost all our celebrated secret Medicines, was forbid abroad to be used at all internally—that so excellent a Medicine as the Bark has met with almost insuperable Difficulties in being introduced into Practice, is still disliked by many, and its Virtues, at least till lately, very imperfectly known out of *England*—if we add to these Considerations, the Prejudice, Indolence, and Disingenuity with which too many are apt to receive any Discovery of this Sort, it was not unreasonable to suspect that some Virtue might reside in the Plant, for the Alleviation of the Symptoms at least, if not
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for the Cure of Cancers ; and in a Disorder of this unhappy Nature every possible means of Relief demands the utmost Attention. The Account which Dr. *Lam-bergen* gave (authorized by the joint Opinion of three other Physicians) that he had radically cured a confirmed Cancer in the Breast, as it was the immediate Occasion of my trying this Medicine, was likewise a very reasonable Inducement to make the Experiment, though the Relation of his Case is not attended with every Circumstance that could be desired.

The Result of my Experiments determined much more in favour of the Medicine, as an extraordinary Promoter of the natural Discharges of the Body, than as having any specific Properties for the Cure of Cancers ; and therefore in my Introduction to the two cancerous Cases, in the Observations upon *Lambergen's* Account, and in the Conclusion of the Pamphlet, I have endeavoured to guard against the too hasty Belief of so desirable an Event ; but as I have already mentioned the common Operations

tations of the Medicine, and have before given my Reasons for publishing an Account of them, I shall proceed to give such a farther History of the Effects of the Nightshade in Cases supposed to be cancerous, as will, I fear, leave no room to hope, that it has any specific Property for the Cure of this Disease. Amongst these Cases I shall comprehend such Hardnesses and Tumours of the Breast as alarm the Patients, and which sometimes degenerate into Cancers, though they are often carried through Life, by proper Attention, without any considerable Inconveniencies.

Elizabeth Prynne, a Woman 65 Years of Age, living in *Brick-street*, near *Piccadilly*, was affected about eight Months ago with a Soreness in the back-part of her Throat, unattended with Fever or any other Complaint at that time. The Soreness increased, and in three Weeks was so troublesome as to occasion a Difficulty of swallowing even Liquids without considerable Pain. The Pain became afterwards so acute, that the Woman suffered extremely when

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she attempted to get down Milk, Broth, or any other mild and liquid Nourishment: She continued in this State several Weeks. She felt likewise darting Pains which frequently struck up each side of her Head with great Violence; nor did she attempt to speak, unless urged to it by Necessity, as the Motion of the diseased Parts on that Occasion gave her great Pain. She had been blooded, purged, blistered, &c. and had used Gargles to the Throat, without finding the least Advantage. When I first saw her about five Months ago, she was not only in the Condition just described in regard to her Throat, but was so weakened by Pain, want of Rest and want of Nourishment (being afraid to attempt swallowing often on Account of the great Pain it gave her) that she could not probably have lived much longer without relief.

Upon examining her Throat, I discovered a very foul Ulcer on the back-part of it, which extended up to the Side of each Tonfil, and appeared there as a malignant corroding Sore. It was suspected to be Venereal,

neral, and it had much the Appearance of such a Sore ; but I was soon satisfied that this Suspicion was groundless. Considering her Age and Weakness of Body, as well as the Nature of the Disease, I expected little Advantage would accrue from any Assistance that might be offered her ; but not to leave her destitute of Hope, I gave her an Infusion of the *Garden Nightshade*, which, as it had nothing sharp or disagreeable in the Taste, and the Dose being only a small Quantity of a clear Liquid, might be swallowed with less Difficulty than many other Medicines. She continued the Use of the Infusion ten or twelve Days without finding the least Amendment ; but after that time she began to be a little easier, and in five Weeks from the first Use of the Nightshade, she could swallow solid Food without Difficulty. The Sores on the Tonsils healed, the Ulcer on the back-part of her Throat grew gradually better, and at last intirely disappeared. The Pain which used to strike up each side of her Head ceased as the Sores in her Throat grew easy, and when she had recovered the Power of swallowing

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freely,

freely, she was soon restored to her natural Strength; finding in the very hot Weather, when she took this Medicine, little Inconvenience from the Use of it, though it generally sweated her plentifully, every second or third Night, and purged her once or twice the next Day: It occasioned likewise a considerable Increase of Urine. The two or three first Doses were attended with some Sickness and Giddiness; but these Symptoms ceased after that time, and never disordered her again, except once or twice slightly, during the whole Course. She began with an Infusion of one Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, which she continued about three Weeks at the Distance before mentioned. The Dose was afterwards increased to two Grains, and with this Quantity she went on about three Months; the Operation of the Medicine being nearly the same all the time. About a Fortnight after the Sore in her Throat was healed, she was seized with a violent Pain in the back-part of her Head, which alarmed me with an Apprehension that the same Humour might affect that Part as had before

before brought on the Disorder in her Throat; but by the Use of common Methods this Complaint was for a time removed, and she seemed remarkably well. Since then she had another Attack of the same Kind, which is at present removed by the same Means. Except the Medicines she took lately, on account of the Pain in her Head, she never made use of any other, either internally, or by way of Application to the Throat, during all the time of her taking the Nightshade. Her Throat is quite clear from any visible Foulness or Sore at present, but she sometimes feels a slight Pain lower down. What the Event will be, must be determined by Time. If the Sore returns again it will probably be deemed a Cancer: If not, and she enjoys her Health as she does now, it will hardly be allowed that Name.

Mrs. *Sympson*, at Mr. *Stacy's* in *Rose-street*, *Covent-Garden*, aged 62, about a Year ago, without having received any hurt upon the Part, felt a Knob in her Right Breast. It was not at that time painful, but in a few Months the Swelling increased

creased considerably, and was attended with
 so much Pain as to disturb her Rest. When I
 first saw her, about four Months ago, the
 Swelling affected the whole Breast, and ex-
 tended to the Arm-pit. In both Places it
 was intensely hard and adhered firmly,
 and several Ulcers appeared on the Surface
 of the Breast. She had dressed the Sores
 with softening Applications, and had some-
 times been purged with Salts, but with-
 out any relief. She took one Grain of
 the *Garden Nightshade* infused, which put
 her into a moderate Sweat that lasted six or
 seven Hours; It occasioned likewise a con-
 siderable Increase of Urine, and purged her
 once the next Day. She generally took
 the Nightshade afterwards every second or
 third Night; the Dose being increased at
 last to three Grains. The Operation of it
 was almost constantly the same. She never
 felt any Head-ach, Heat, Giddiness, Sick-
 ness, or Drowsiness. Her Appetite and Spirits
 were better than they had been. She conti-
 nued in this Course about ten Weeks without
 taking any other Medicine: In most of this
 time she slept well and had very little Pain,
 except

except that now and then in the day she felt some Shootings in the Sores. A Fulness in the Parts surrounding the Hardness was dispersed by this Means; but the Hardness itself and the Sores appeared to be quite unaltered. About this time she caught cold, and had feverish Complaints. She was blooded, and used other Means common on such Occasions; but leaving off the Nightshade, her Pains returned, notwithstanding the Evacuations which had been used for her Fever. She has now a very troublesome Cough, and a Fever. At her own Request, she begun to take the Nightshade again, which made her easier, and operated as before in moderate Sweats and gentle Purging; but her Case in general is at present so unfavourable, that very little benefit can be expected from any thing. She has had the Appearance of a Mote flying sometimes before one of her Eyes, but never felt any Pain in either of them, nor found the least Defect or Alteration in her Sight.

Mrs.

Mrs. Lang, a Gentlewoman in *Princes-street*, near *Gerrard-street*, *Leicester-fields*, aged 57, has been afflicted with cancerous Complaints in both Breasts for some Years. One of them has been long ulcerated and almost destroyed; and hardly any Case can be worse than the Condition of this unfortunate Gentlewoman. As she had not received any Alleviation of her Complaints from the Variety of Means which had been tried for her Relief, she desired to take the Nightshade. She took the *Garden Sort* three Months, a Grain serving for a Dose. It put her into a moderate Sweat, which lasted some Hours: It increased the Quantity of her Water, and it purged her once the Day after taking it. The Medicine hardly ever varied in its Effects, and as it never occasioned the least Inconvenience of Head-ach, Giddiness, Sickness, or even Faintness or Drowsiness, or any one disagreeable Consequence, she repeated it almost every Night. She slept very little before she took the Nightshade, but by means of this she had good Nights. This happy Effect continued about nine

Weeks.

Weeks. The Medicine then ceased to have any Operation upon the Natural Evacuations. The Dose was increased, but to no good Purpose: It seemed rather to heat her, an Effect which she never found from it before, but the leaving it off in time prevented an Aggravation of the Symptoms, if in her Case that Expression may be allowed. She is now beginning the Medicine again, and is again relieved by it.

A Lady, 47 Years of Age, about a Year and half ago, accidentally received a Hurt on her Left Breast, and in a few Days afterwards she felt a Lump there of the Bigness of a Hen's Egg: She was at that time not in a good State of Health, having frequent Attacks of feverish Disorders. She was blooded, purged, and made use of softening Applications to the Part, but the Swelling, attended with considerable Pain, soon increased, and, not long after, appeared to be a confirmed and ulcerated Cancer, the Tumour being very large, the Sores spreading, and the Pain increasing. The other Breast likewise swelled very much, became very hard

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and painful, and sometimes she was affected with severe Pains in different Parts of the Body. She desired to take the Nightshade. She began with half a Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, which had no Effect. She increased the Dose gradually and carefully to seven Grains ; but as it failed to promote an Increase of any of the natural Discharges, at least having but a very slight Effect that Way, and as the Patient was naturally costive, tho' this Circumstance was as much guarded against as possible, she thought that the medicine began to heat her, and at my Request, immediately desisted from any further use of it.

A Lady in the Country, who had long had a Cancer in one of her Breasts, which had been ulcerated a considerable Time, and which had sometimes been subject to bleed, resolving to try the Nightshade, applied to me four Months ago for Directions about taking it. She took the *Deadly* Nightshade near three Months. Having heard but once from her during this Time, I desired to know the Effects of the Medicine ;
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and am informed by her, that she took it almost every Night—that it generally sweated her moderately in the Morning, increasing her Urine slightly, and purging her two or three times every Day—that her Spirits were low, and her Appetite worse—that she did not find it occasioned any Giddiness; that it affected her Eyes, but seldom made her sick. She increased the Dose to five Grains. She found no considerable Alteration in her Breast for some time after taking the Nightshade, but at last imagined the Sores grew larger, the Pain rather more acute, and the Bleedings more frequent. I immediately desired her to desist, which I should have done much sooner, as well as have prevented her taking the Medicine so often, if I had been sufficiently apprized of the Circumstances just related.

About the same time I was desired, by another Lady in the Country, to give her Directions for the Use of this Medicine. This Lady had been troubled about two Years

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with

with a very large and painful cancerous Swelling in one of her Breasts, which extended towards the Armpit, and was adherent. She began with one Grain of the *Deadly Nightshade*; but the Medicine had little Effect till she had taken three Grains for a Dose. It then operated considerably by Sweat, and, as she informed me, without lowering her Spirits. She was obliged afterwards to increase the Dose, which generally operated more or less in the same way, though sometimes it failed. It sometimes affected her with a Giddiness. She drank occasionally some *Cheltenham Water*, which she had used before to keep her open. She continued the Medicine between two and three Months, except for about a Fortnight, when she had a Fit of the Gout in her Foot. The Account which I received a Month ago gave me no room to expect any service from this Medicine, but as she was desirous to continue it, I recommended her to take it only once in 3 or 4 Days, and to use the *Garden Nightshade* instead of the other. I am now informed,

that

that she has sometimes since taken one Sort, and sometimes the other—that she thinks the *Garden Nightshade* agrees best with her, but that she cannot positively say, she has received any considerable service from either.

A young Woman, belonging to a Gentlewoman, who lodges at Mr. Price's a Tobaccoist in *Sherrard-street, Golden-square*, had a Swelling in her Right Breast, which she attributed to a Blow that she received accidentally upon the Part some Months before. At the time of the Accident she felt a great deal of Pain, but it soon ceased, and she did not perceive any Swelling till a Month afterwards. She then felt a considerable Fullness and Hardness in the Breast. When I first saw her, which was about four Months ago, she had a Tumour in the middle Part of her Breast, which was almost as big as a Hen's Egg, and according to her own and her Friend's Representation, had been of that Size about ten Weeks. The Swelling was not so intensely hard as a confirmed Schirrus, but was attended

attended with so much Pain as frequently to interrupt her Rest many Hours in the Night. The Month before I saw her she had been blooded and frequently purged, but without finding the least Advantage. I was desired to give her the Nightshade. She took an Infusion of a Grain of the *Garden Nightshade*, which heated her for some little time, and made her Breast more painful than usual; but she soon fell into a profuse Sweat, which continued several Hours. It occasioned likewise a great Increase of Urine. She repeated the same Dose two Nights after, which had nearly the same Effect. She felt very little Pain after the second Dose, and the Swelling soon afterwards began to decrease. She took the Nightshade every second, third, or fourth Night, about five Weeks, in which time the Tumour gradually lessened, and was at length perfectly dispersed. She never took more than a Grain and a Half at a Dose, and felt no Inconvenience whilst it operated, except that it twice made her a little belinous.

little sick and giddy. She remains perfectly well.

Esther Williams, aged 30, a Servant living with a Lady in *Dean Street, Soho*, about a Year ago felt a Lump towards the upper-part of her Left Breast, without having received any Hurt that could occasion it. It was then of the Size of a large Walnut, and free from Pain. Ten Weeks ago she applied to me. The Tumour was at that time somewhat enlarged, and was sometimes attended with shooting Pains in it, but not acute. She had been blooded and frequently purged, but found no Advantage from any means that were employed for her. She took half a Grain of the *Garden Nightshade*, which made her sick and giddy a few Minutes, then threw her into a moderate Sweat, increased the Quantity of her Water, and purged her three times the next Day. The next Dose having much less Effect, she took a whole Grain, and the Dose was afterwards increased to a Grain and a Half. She took the Medicine six Weeks, generally every second

second or third Day. In this time it sweat-
ed her three or four times slightly, but
its common Effects were an Increase of
Urine, and a Purging two or three times af-
ter each Dose. She had generally a Water-
ing in her Eyes the Morning after taking
the Medicine, which ceased in half an
Hour, and never left the least Inconvenience.
She had not any return of the Sickness or
Giddiness after the first Dose, but she
sometimes found herself drowsy an Hour
or two the Day after taking the Medicine,
though at other times she was well and
hearty, and felt little or no Pain in her
Breast. Finding however that no Progress
was made in dissolving the Hardness, I ad-
vised her to leave off the Medicine; and if
the Pain increases, she proposes to have the
Tumour extirpated.

A Lady, about 30 Years of Age, having
a frequent tendency to an Eruption in her
Skin, a great difficulty of Breathing upon
catching the slightest Cold, and being in ge-
neral of a tender Constitution, advised with
me, three Months ago, about a Tumour
in

in one of her Breasts, which Complaint had been preceded by considerable Pain. She had taken Mercurial Medicines on this Occasion, which had aggravated the Disorder; but by pursuing a milder Course the Symptoms were soon after moderated. When I saw her first she had an unequal and very hard Tumour in the Breast, about the Size of a large Walnut, attended with some Pain. The Lady having tried other Methods without any considerable Advantage, was desirous to take the Nightshade; she began with half a Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, but found very little Effect till she had increased the Dose to three Grains; and even this Quantity operated so imperfectly, that she increased the Dose to five Grains. This sweated her plentifully, and did not in the least disagree with her in other Respects; but having accidentally caught Cold, the usual Disorder of her Breast affected her, though it did not continue long. The Lady went then into the Country, with a Determination to pursue the Use of the Nightshade;

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but at first not meeting with any but the *Deadly* Nightshade, she began with that, the Effects of which, as I was afterwards informed, were, that increasing the Dose from two Grains to five, it occasioned a Drowfiness, Giddiness, Dryness in her Throat, a Heat and Pain in her Breast, and a general Heat and Restlessness; it likewise swelled and affected her Eyes so that she could not read, and at last brought on pretty strong convulsive Motions, but her Head kept clear, and the next Day she found herself hardly at all weakened by the Violence of this Operation. The Medicine seldom failed to sweat, and it sometimes purged a little. She had afterwards recourse to the *Garden* Nightshade, which was not attended with any ill Effects. She increased the Dose from two Grains to six. The Operation of the Medicine varied, especially at the latter Part of the Course. It sometimes operated plentifully by Perspiration or Urine, and sometimes by both; at other times it had no apparent Effect. As it seldom purged, some opening Waters were

were taken occasionally. From the time of beginning with the *Garden* Nightshade, the Heat, Head-ach, Dryness in the Throat, Giddiness, and other disagreeable Symptoms ceased. She continued the Medicine, seemed in perfect good Health in general, slept well, and felt very little Pain in her Breast. After taking the *Garden* Nightshade about five Weeks, she caught Cold, and was attacked with her old Disorder of difficulty in Breathing, attended with a Fever and a violent Cough. These Complaints continued several Days. She afterwards took the Nightshade again for about a Fortnight, which did not operate quite so much as before. She was however in good Health and Spirits, scarcely ever felt any Uneasiness from her Breast, and slept well; but as the Hardness in her Breast was not visibly lessened, I advised a Disuse of the Medicine. She now does not feel any Uneasiness in her Breast, and is in other Respects well.

Mrs. Dowding, at Mr. Laight's, in Market-street, St. James's Market, four Years ago, felt, without any preceding Accident, a Knot about the Bigness of a Pea in her Left Breast, which was loose and not painful. In a Year after it was a little increased, and attended with a slight Pain. It gradually grew larger and rather more painful ; but the Pain was not very considerable till about a Year ago. At that time the Swelling possessed the whole Breast, and often disturbed her Rest. The Tumour was very hard and of an unequal Form, but did not adhere. She had taken Manna occasionally, and had been bled once a Month for some time, but without finding any Alteration. About three Months ago she began to take the *Garden Nightshade*, beginning with half a Grain, and increasing the Dose to a Grain. She took it fourteen times at the Distance of two or three Days between each Dose. She had a slight Giddiness for a few Minutes with six of the Doses, and was twice sick ; but the common Effects of the Medicine were a Heat which broke out into a profuse Sweat, a considerable Increase of Urine, and

and a moderate purging the second Day after taking it. The Sweat which ran off from her in Drops, generally continued 8 or 9 Hours; but though at the time she took the Nightshade the Weather was remarkably hot, she found her Strength very little affected the Day that the Medicine was working, and always found her Spirits remarkably good in the intermediate Days. She observed that during the Operation of the first three Doses, the disordered Breast did not sweat at all; but afterwards the Medicine operated there as profusely as in the rest of the Body. She found herself considerably easier whilst she used this Medicine, but as I could not observe any visible Alteration in the Breast, I advised her to let me take it off, which she consented to.

These are all the Cases that I have seen, where the Nightshade has been given in Disorders of this Kind, except two which I casually saw, and had no particular Account of; and likewise two others who were Patients in the Hospital.

These

These last were not immediately under my Direction, but the principal Circumstances that relate to them are as follow :

One of them *William Hunter* 56 Years of Age, had a large and hard Tumour on the Lower Lip, attended with a painful Sore yielding an ichorous Discharge. He begun with one Grain of the *Deadly Nightshade*, which was increased afterwards to six Grains. The Medicine operated sometimes moderately by Urine, very little by Sweat, and sometimes it had no apparent Effect at all. It occasioned a Head-ach and Drowsiness, and two or three times it affected him with a Dimness, so as to make it difficult for him to read. This Symptom soon went off after the Operation of the Medicine was over. The Sore was judged to look rather better, tho' I think the Amendment was very inconsiderable. After taking the Medicine about a Month, he was seized with a Fit of the Gout, a Disorder he was subject to. During this Illness the Disease in his Lip grew much worse ; and he being weak, and
wanting

wanting a better Air, was for a time discharged from the Hospital. He is lately returned much better in regard to his Strength, but worse in respect to his Lip. Being at this Admission into the Hospital under my Care, I gave him two Doses of the *Garden Nightshade*, but finding that the Pain was not at all relieved by it, and having no Hopes of alleviating the Complaint when the Medicine, as I found in the present Case, did not considerably promote some of the natural Discharges, I immediately desisted from giving the Nightshade any more, for fear of aggravating those Symptoms which were already very bad.

The other Patient, *John Musgrave*, was about sixty Years of Age. He had a cancerous Ulcer likewise on his Lower Lip, but it was much larger and more malignant than the other, affecting the greatest Part of his Lip, near a third of which it had destroyed, spreading likewise into his Mouth, and under his Chin, and yielding a fetid Discharge. This Disorder began
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about a Year before he came to the Hospital, and had lately increased very fast with great Hardness, and considerable Pains.

He took an Infusion of *Deadly Nightshade*, beginning with one Grain, and increasing it to seven. The Medicine had not much Effect upon the natural Evacuations. Sometimes indeed it increased the Quantity of his Urine, but seldom very considerably. It occasioned a Giddiness, and affected him several times with violent Head-achs, and pain in his Loins. In general, it heated and disordered him; and, as of course the Complaint in his Lip must under such Circumstances be aggravated, the Medicine was left off.

From these Cases, and from others which I have heard of, where a remarkable good Effect in the Beginning led into a too flattering Hope of an happy Event, it is I think evident, there is no specific Property in the Nightshade for the Cure of Cancers. That, tho' a temporary Amendment may sometimes

times appear, the Medicine has not sufficient Power to make this Amendment lasting. To which must be added, that if it is not given with Attention and Caution, it may aggravate the Symptoms which it was designed to relieve.

In order to make the Use of the Medicine as advantageous as possible in Cases where there is a Probability of Success, and to prevent any Injury arising from the Experiment, I shall beg leave to offer such farther Remarks and Directions as my own Experience and the Practice of others have suggested to me. Previous to these Directions I must observe, that as the Species of this Plant called *Deadly Nightshade* has been found to be attended with troublesome Symptoms, I should enforce what I have before recommended, the Use of the *Garden Nightshade*.

Bleeding, a Purge, or a Vomit, either one or all, should generally precede the Use of this Medicine.

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The Infusion of one Grain is as much as ever should be given for the first Dose.

The Medicine should be generally given at Night, as the necessary Confinement in Bed during the Height of the Perspiration and the Drowsiness which sometimes ensues may be disagreeable in the Day.

It seldom happens that more than one Dose is proper in 24 Hours; nor should in general the Dose be repeated oftener than every second or third Night.

If it does not operate by Stool, some other Medicine should be given either with the Nightshade, or in a reasonable time after it, that may constantly keep the Body open; and this Circumstance is particularly to be attended to.

No good Effect can be expected from this Medicine unless it operates by Perspiration, Urine, or Stool. If, after trying enlarged Doses, the Quantity of 5 or 6 Grains does not produce a very considerable Increase of
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some of these Discharges, a further Use of the Medicine is not advisable, for tho' a larger Dose might possibly have the Effect, the Operation of the Medicine will not be regular enough afterwards to be serviceable.

If the Symptoms seem to be aggravated after the second Dose, a Continuance of the Medicine will be generally improper.

If Giddiness, Head-ach, or Sickness continue very troublesome after the second or third Dose, a Perseverance in the Use of the Nightshade will seldom be adviseable ; tho' in some Instances where this has happened it Medicine has operated afterwards without any considerable Inconvenience.

If the Patient is hot or thirsty in the Night after taking the Infusion, he should drink some warm diluting Liquor, in order to encourage a free Discharge by Perspiration and Urine, and to relieve the Stomach where there is a Disposition to vomit.

I must now beg leave to obviate some Objections which have been made to the Use of this Medicine, and to mention two or three other Circumstances that relate to it.

In the last Edition of my Account, printed six Weeks after the First, I took the Opportunity of making some Additions which I then imagined necessary. Amongst those, in the Detail of the Symptoms ensuing upon the Use of the Nightshade, I took Notice of the Head-ach, Drowsiness, and the Dimness of Sight which affected some Patients. The last of these only, at present, deserves particular Consideration. This Effect of the Nightshade did not occur to my Observation from the first Experiments, nor till some time after the Publication of my Account. Probably the Patients who were affected by it, regarded this Symptom only as a Consequence of their Giddiness and Sickness, especially as it ceases generally with the Operation of the Medicine, and therefore they did not mention it to me; or if they did mention it, it was so slightly

slightly as not to make it an Object of my Attention. As soon as I was apprized of this Effect, I took the first Opportunity of making it known; and as it is a Circumstance which may reasonably be thought of consequence, it undoubtedly deserves to be considered. According to my Observation, this Symptom has occurred much more frequently from the Use of the *Deadly* than of the *Garden* Nightshade. Sometimes the Patient feels only a Weight and an aching Pain about the Eye-balls; at other times there is a Watering of the Eyes: Some have found a Dimness, or have perceived the Appearance of a Cloud before their Eyes, not unlike what commonly happens to People that are giddy, or ready to faint. This Symptom seldom affects the Patient after some Repetitions of the Medicine, or if it continues to do so, it is probably in a less Degree; except the Doses are repeated so quick after each other, that the Operation of one Dose is not finished before another is given, a Circumstance always to be attended to. In this case it may affect the Sight so as to render the

Patient

Patient unable to read a small Print, or to do any fine Work. This Symptom however ceases after the Medicine is intirely disused; and in no one Instance that I have seen or known, has it occasioned any lasting Weakness in the Sight. But admitting the Possibility of such an Accident, the Argument could only hold against the Continuance of the Medicine where this Symptom was very troublesome, in the same Manner as it might be urged against the Use of Blisters, which often have the same Effect, especially when they are made perpetual.

Another Circumstance I thought necessary to mention in the last Account was, the Preference which I imagined the *Garden* Nightshade ought to have to that Species of this Plant called the *Deadly* Nightshade. In my first Account I observed, as a very singular Circumstance, the Similarity of Effects in these. I thought myself justified in the Observation from the Resemblance which there really is in the Effects produced by them,
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and by some Trials which I had made, attended by the Apothecary of the Hospital, with each Sort, not only in different Persons, but by alternate Doses in the same Person. I had Reason however afterwards to think, and am now convinced, that the *Garden* Nightshade possesses the Virtues of the other, and is milder in its Operation. Being earnestly desirous that this should be known, though in contradiction to a former Observation, I added a Postscript to the Edition just mentioned, declaring this Alteration in my Opinion: At the same time finding that the Nightshade was often given as an Alterative, and not considered as a Medicine whose Uses must arise from its Effects upon the natural Discharges, I took occasion to mention, that unless, after a few Trials, there was a visible Increase of some of the natural Evacuations, the Medicine should be discontinued, as little good could be expected from it where this Effect upon the Secretions was not produced; and that a Perseverance in it, under such Circumstances, might I imagined sometimes irritate too much and do hurt.

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It has been said that paralytic Complaints have been occasioned by the Use of the Nightshade, and have continued some Days. It is possible that such Accidents may happen, as we see they sometimes occur in the Use of other strong Medicines, and as we find by several of the Symptoms, especially where the *Deadly* Nightshade is given, that this Medicine acts very powerfully upon the Nerves of some People. For my own part, tho' I doubt not the Information of others, I have never seen an Instance of such an Accident. Perhaps this may have been, in a good measure, owing to my having chiefly used the *Garden* instead of the *Deadly* Nightshade. I have once seen the Nightshade given in a paralytic Case, where the Use of it seemed to be very serviceable. A Patient in the Hospital (*Elizabeth Wright*, forty-five Years of Age) about three Months ago was seized with a Palsy which intirely deprived her of all Sensation and Motion on one Side of her Body. She had been blooded, blistered on the Back, and by her blisters on the Arms

Arms and Legs, and had several internal Medicines given her near three Weeks without any considerable Advantage, when she was directed to take the Nightshade. In twelve Days this Person was restored to her natural Sensation, except at the Ends of her Fingers, where she felt a slight Numbness; and she had a good Motion of her Limbs, tho' she could not exert them with so much Strength as before her Illness. One Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade sweated her very plentifully, and increased the Quantity of her Water, without occasioning any Giddiness, Head-ach, or the least Inconvenience. She was taken out of Bed, and with some Assistance walked several Yards, but found a Weakness in her Limbs, which affected her equally on both Sides. It was reasonably supposed, that the Medicine had done all it was capable of, by removing the Obstructions which had probably been the Cause of this Loss of Sensation and Motion, and a Perseverance in the Use of it might, by the great Increase of Perspiration, weaken and enervate her more. She therefore took Medicines intended to

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strengthen her. She pursued this Method some Days, and was getting better, when she was thrown into a Fever, attended with a vomiting and purging, by eating a large Quantity of Fruit. A Fortnight after, when she was relieved from this Accident, she felt a Numbness in her Elbow and Fingers, which still continues. She has been blistered in the Arm for this Complaint, but without any Advantage. She now walks without any Assistance, has her natural feeling except a Numbness at the Elbow and at the Ends of the Fingers, and tho' she cannot yet exert much Force, she has Strength enough to dress herself. It was remarkable that the Medicine sweated her only in the diseased Side of the Body, and brought a Rash out which covered almost every part of that Side, but did not spread at all to the other till ten or twelve Days afterwards; and then it appeared there very slightly and in particular Places only.

From the remarkable Increase of Urine and Perspiration, which frequently attend the

the Use of this Medicine, it is probable that it may be sometimes employed with Advantage in dropfical Complaints. I am the more induced to think so from its Success in two of the following Cases, which are all that I have known where the Nightshade has been tried in this Disease.

William Wood, 31 Years of Age, was admitted into the Hospital about three Months ago, for a Dropsy in his Belly. Two Months before his Admission he had made but little Water, and his Belly had been gradually distending. When he came into the Hospital he was very much swelled, and there was a plain Fluctuation of a Fluid in the Cavity. He was troubled likewise with a Cough, a great Difficulty of breathing, was emaciated in his Limbs, had a very unhealthy Look, and was subject to Costiveness. He had taken several Doses of strong purging Physic before he came to the Hospital, which lessened in some measure the Distension of his Belly for a few Days after each Dose, but the Swelling soon returned.

He was directed to take the Infusion of *Garden Nightshade*, which he generally repeated every second or third Night. One Grain of the Leaf had no Effect, but two Grains sweated him moderately, purged him twice, and occasioned him to discharge near a Gallon of Water the Days after he took the Nightshade, and a considerable Quantity in the intermediate Days. His Symptoms soon abated ; and in about a Month after his Admission, thinking himself quite well, though there was then a greater Fullness of his Belly than was natural, and being desirous of pursuing his Business, which was that of a Porter at a distant Part of the City, he was discharged from the Hospital at his own Request. He came twice afterwards for some of the Infusion, which he took at home. I heard nothing of him since till a few Days ago, when he was admitted into the Hospital for a Fever. The Reason he gives for not coming to the Hospital before was, that he found himself quite free from his former Complaints, and had made water very freely ever since.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Cartwright, a Woman about forty Years of Age, who had been tapped seventeen times in five Years, was directed to take the *Deadly Nightshade*. She took a few Doses of the Infusion, which sweated her, and occasioned some Increase of Water; but the Medicine disagreeing with her, and the Case admitting very little Expectation of Advantage, she ceased taking it.

Another Woman, who had been tapped three times, took the *Nightshade* at her own Request. She took five Doses of the *Garden Sort*, either one or two Grains of the Leaf in each Dose. It made her sweat very much, and occasioned a great discharge of Urine. It occasioned likewise some degree of Giddiness, and Faintness. She left the Hospital after this on account of some Affairs which required her to go away.

I have hitherto avoided giving Account of any Case that was not either in some measure under my Direction, or subject to my Observation; but the following

ing being in the Neighbourhood of the Hospital, and the Nightshade being supplied from thence, I shall add it to the others.

David Jones, a Soldier in the first Regiment of Guards, had been troubled some time with anasarcaous Swellings attended with great difficulty in Breathing. He had made but little Water for some time past, and at last became so bloated and swelled, that being incapable of doing his Duty he was put into the Regimental Hospital in *Petty France*. After other means had proved ineffectual for three Weeks, the *Garden Nightshade* was given. He took seven Doses of it. The first, a Grain of the Leaf infused, occasioned an agreeable Heat all over the Body, which was succeeded by a profuse Sweat, a great discharge of Urine, and watry Stools. His Breath was a little relieved the next Day. At Night he repeated the Dose, slept well, sweated considerably and discharged a great quantity of Water. The third Night the Effects were not so considerable, but the Swelling

Swelling in general was much abated. The fourth Night he took two Grains, and the fifth Night four Grains, which operated but slightly; and therefore on the sixth Night he took six Grains, which produced a very plentiful Sweat and a great discharge of Urine. As the Medicine did not occasion any troublesome Symptoms, he was directed on the seventh Night to take eight Grains. This last Dose operated very plentifully by Sweat and Urine. He kept open all the time, but the Medicine never purged him except when he had the watry Stools after the first Dose. He was so little weakened by these Evacuations, that he generally came down Stairs with the other Men to be examined. He was discharged from the Hospital ten Days afterwards quite cured, and has since been remarkably hearty and well.

Thus I have endeavoured to give a faithful Account of the most essential Circumstances relating to the Use of the Nightshade.

In regard to the little Success which this Medicine is said to have had in general; it may be observed, that where any Medicine is given in Cases that common Methods fail to relieve, and is administered in Diseases of a different Nature, in order to ascertain its Uses; where the Powers and Operations of the Medicine are but imperfectly known, and the Efficacy of it is erroneously attributed to a specific Quality, fewer Instances of Success can be expected, and more Inconveniencies will probably occur than might otherwise have happened.

It may be observed likewise, that though a Medicine, which is not in common Use, may be employed with great Propriety by many, yet the best Directions for the Management of it will not always be pursued: They will sometimes be misapplied by the Negligent, and disregarded by the Bold.

I must acknowledge however, that my own Expectations have not been fully answered. I have already observed, that the Event of some Cases has disappointed my
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first Hopes, either by the Cure's proving incomplete or only temporary: I have found likewise from further Experience, that the Operation of the Medicine is irregular, and that the Use of it in some Instances, if persevered in, is attended with troublesome Symptoms: I should imagine therefore that though the Nightshade may with Care, be tried with great Safety; yet from the preceding Considerations, it seems to be a Medicine not so much calculated for general Use, as for particular Cases, where the common Remedies have failed, and where this proves upon Trial to be free from the principal Inconveniencies which sometimes attend the Use of it.

When I first offered my Thoughts to the Public on the Nightshade, it appeared to me to have an uncommon Influence upon the natural discharges of the Body: I imagined some useful Purposes might be answered by a Medicine acting in such a Manner; and I had seen Instances of its Efficacy, which encouraged me to hope for
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future Success. I proposed these Particulars to the impartial Consideration and the Experience of others, without presuming to ascertain its uses, or to determine, what at that time was thought doubtful, whether there was any specific Property in this Plant for the Cure or Alleviation of cancerous Complaints. At the same time I proposed such Directions as might I imagined contribute to the safe and advantageous Use of this Medicine, adding a caution, which has since proved not unnecessary, that the Infusion of the Nightshade ought not to be given indiscriminately in every Disease, but required Judgment, and Attention in the Management of it. If there was any remarkable Merit in the Medicine, this I conceived was the most ready Means to discover its good Effects, and make the Utility of it sooner and more generally known: If from Experience a contrary Event should happen, I made no doubt but its ill Effects would be as readily communicated. Upon the whole, I flattered myself that some salutary Purposes might be answered

answered by it; and from the Account which I have given, I do not imagine the Expectation was unreasonable, or that it has been intirely disappointed. The Directions which I have taken the Liberty to mention for the future Use of the Nightshade, will not, I hope, be thought improper for the Consideration of those who are not much acquainted with its Operations; and I particularly wish that the *Garden* Nightshade might be always preferred to the *Deadly*. If by a careful and judicious Application of this Medicine any particular Disease may be removed which does not yield to common Means, or if any painful Complaint may occasionally be alleviated where other methods have proved ineffectual, the Enquiry into the Properties of the Nightshade will not have been intirely useless. At present I take this Opportunity to declare, that as I have seldom given the Nightshade in Disorders where other Means were likely to answer, so I have forbore to persevere in the Use of it where any Symptoms, which it occasioned, continued to be troublesome. By this means

means I have sometimes been enabled to afford considerable Relief, and have not in any Instance, as far as my own Practice has extended, produced a lasting ill Consequence.

F I N I S.

